

Shrewsbury Commission on Disabilities
Minutes September 14, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Vice-chair Jerry Berrier at 7:00PM in meeting room A.

Members in attendance

Jerry Berrier Vice-chair
Loretta Henry
Dan Morgado Town Manager
Barbara Smith
Keith Willette

Members not in attendance

Gail Sokolowski Chairwoman (excused)

Guest

Lou Boersma (Vice-chair of Housing in Grafton)

Mrs. Henry moved and Mr. Willette seconded a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting. The motion passed.

Town Liaison Report

Town Manager Dan Morgado addressed the issue of accessibility to polling places. Mr. Morgado reported the following issues have been rectified or scheduled:

1. Walkway at Spring Street School will be modified by the town.
2. Wheel guards on ramps located at the sewer and water department.
3. Posting of a sign indicating van accessibility at town hall.

There remains the issue of lack of proper handrails at the Frohsinn and Scandinavian clubs. Mr. Morgado explained the dilemma of utilizing private facilities for public purposes. He explained that the town is not permitted to use public funds to make any improvements on private facilities. He expressed town management's preference to use public buildings for polling places, but he pointed out security issues and other concerns of school officials.

Some suggestions from board members ranging from temporary town owned handrails, fundraisers to purchase handrails and merging of polling places. Mr. Morgado will continue to investigate the matter including contacting an engineer who worked on the new high school.

Mr. Morgado was asked about the possibility of installing a signal light on Maple Avenue across from the town hall. He stated that the road is state owned and he felt the amount of pedestrian traffic would not warrant the expenditure. Mrs. Henry will ask if there are any concerns regarding this matter among senior citizen center

attendees. Mr. Morgado said there were no other communications concerning this board. Mr. Morgado left the meeting after presenting his report.

Appointments

None

Bills

None

New Business

Mr. Berrier invited Lou Boersma to speak. Mr. Boersma raised concern regarding property located at the corner of Grafton Street and Main Street. He stated the doors of this property open outwards towards the sidewalk over a large platform impeding sidewalk traffic. He pursued this issue with the town engineer who will develop sketches to rectify this problem and submit them to the state this week. Mr. Boersma was invited to the next meeting to update us on this issue.

Mr. Berrier asked two new members to the board to introduce themselves and explain their priorities. Barbara Smith and Keith Willette both spoke.

Reorganization of board positions

Positions on the board have expired and Mr. Berrier conducted an election of officers.

The following officers were elected:

Keith Willette Chairman

Gail Sokolowski Vice-chair

Barbara Smith Secretary

Jerry Berrier Communication and web site Liaison

Loretta Henry Senior Citizen Liaison

Old Business

No discussion

Our next meeting will take place on October 12 at 7:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM

Respectfully submitted by

Keith Willette